



ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

**THE 11th MEETING OF THE AIPA FACT-FINDING COMMITTEE
(AIFOCOM) TO COMBAT THE DRUG MENACE**

**12th – 16th May 2014, Landmark Mekong Riverside Hotel
Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic**

*THEME: "Enhancing Parliamentary Cooperation for a Drug Free ASEAN
Community"*

**Intervention of Mr. Ounseng Vixay, Permanent Secretary,
Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision, Representative of the
Chairman of the 34th ASEAN Senior Officials on Drugs Matters at the 11th ASEAN
Inter-Parliamentary Assembly Fact Finding Committee to combat the Drug Menace
Vientiane capital, 13-16 May 2014**

- H. E.. Prof. Dr. Phonethep Pholsena, Chairman of 11th AIFOCOM,
- Honorable Mr. Periowsamy Otharam , Secretary General of AIPA

- Honorable AIPA Member of Parliaments,
- Excellencies
- Ladies and Gentlemen

It a great honour and pleasure for me to be invited to attend the 11th Meeting of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly Fact Finding Committee as Representative of the Chairman of the 34th Meeting of ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters today. At this august 11th AIFOCOM, I would like to express my sincere thanks to You Mr. Chairman for giving me an opportunity to inform the AIFOCOM participants on the ASOD activities.

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In our region, on 25 July 1998, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers signed a Joint Declaration for a Drug-Free ASEAN by 2020 that affirmed the Association's commitment to eradicate illicit drug production, processing, trafficking and use by 2020 in the region of ASEAN. At the 33rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in July 2000, the Foreign Ministers took note of the threat from drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking on security and stability of the ASEAN region, particularly its relations with transnational organized crime. They urged countries to enhance joint efforts among all affected States in combating the drug menace, especially the newly emerging drugs like Methamphetamine or Amphetamine Type of Stimulants (ATS) and they agreed to advance the target year for realizing a drug-free ASEAN by 2015.

However, during that period, the goal of Drug-Free ASEAN was not further elaborated, whether it was zero drug-free or what drug free really meant. The ASEAN Vision of Drug-Free was therefore widely viewed as just a political statement by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers.

A feasibility study on ASEAN region being free from the menace of drugs as envisaged by ASEAN Foreign Ministers was conducted in 2007 with the funding support from the U.S Government. UNODC was contracted to undertake the Study. It also touched on the challenges as well as positive progress at national and regional levels and recommended actions to be considered.

The Study on Achieving Drug-Free ASEAN 2015: Status and Recommendations serves as a timely mid-term progress report for the region and was structured under three questions: 'Is the commitment achievable?' 'Is the region on track towards achieving it?' 'What can be done to accelerate progress?'

Based upon latest information available via data collection mechanisms established by various organizations, Government Official Reports, and interviews with national agencies of ASEAN Member States and other drug control stakeholders throughout the region, the report highlights a series of benchmarks and recommendations for Governments to better monitor the overall progress of their drug prevention and control efforts. A final section of the report deals with emerging challenges posed by the accelerated development of trade and transportation networks in the region. To adequately address the anticipated surge of goods and persons through new and more heavily trafficked border crossings, an effective regional response will require a common strategy and coordinated actions.

On 29 October 2007, ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) met in Jakarta to review the Report. Selected recommendations from the Report were endorsed at the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) on 6 November 2007 in Brunei Darussalam. Based on the Report, the 6th AMMTC tasked the ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) to determine specific targets and timelines to its Work Plan.

At this workshop, the goal "drug-free ASEAN" was elaborated into "A Vision of a drug-free ASEAN". The members of ASOD deliberated on the finding and concluded that

the realization of a Drug-Free ASEAN by 2015 is to successfully and effectively control illicit drugs activities and mitigate its negative consequences to society, primarily on the significant and sustainable reduction in: i) illicit crop cultivation; (ii) illicit manufacture and trafficking of drugs and drug-related crime; (iii) prevalence of illicit drug use.

During the 30th ASOD in 2009, the ASOD work plan, entitled the "ASEAN Work Plan on Combating Illicit Drug Production, Trafficking and Use (2009-2015)" was adopted in order to support the vision and scope of the Drug-Free ASEAN 2015. The undertaken measure will ensure the incorporation of the ASOD Work Plan towards the respective ASEAN Member States national plan of action, which would be reflected in the country reports, and serve as the basis of cooperation with Dialogue Partners.

Utilizing the baseline from 2008 data during the 29th ASOD, the Standardized Country Report has been developed and endorsed by ASOD as of 15 January 2011 (and the final format with minor modifications was circulated on 17 June 2011). The country report will be annually reviewed during the ASOD meetings and a mid-term review based on the Country Reports will assess the effectiveness of priority areas implemented under the ASOD Work Plan in 2012.

At the 32nd ASOD in Vientiane, Lao PDR, the Meeting noted Indonesia's experience in the formulation of its national policy strategy paper for the implementation years of 2011-2015 which was developed by a group of experts in coordination with relevant National agencies and Ministries. The Meeting also welcomed Indonesia's offer to extend its support and expertise to assist Mid-Term review. ASEAN Regional Coordination Seminar on Mid-Term Review was held from 29-30 May 2012 in Jakarta to discuss and agree upon the modality of the Mid-term Review; the technical contents; the timeframe and the process to be undertaken, among others. The mid-term review for a drug-free ASEAN 2015 has identified 5 area of regional cooperation necessary to tackle these priority areas through Law Enforcement, Alternative Development, Preventive Education, Treatment and Rehabilitation, and Research.

The final report on the realization of ASEAN's ultimate goal of achieving ASEAN Drug-Free 2015 has been presented to the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drugs Matters and Related Issues hosted in Thailand from 30-31 August 2012 and in Brunei Darussalam from 1-4 September 2013 respectively.

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you are all aware that drug problem still remains one of the main security concerns to all ASEAN member States. Apart from suffering caused to individuals, particularly young people and their families, drug abuse and illicit trafficking weaken the social

fabric of nations, represent direct and indirect economic cost to governments and entail criminal activities which could threaten the security and stability of the States.

At the 20th ASEAN Summit held during 3-4 April 2012 in Phnom Penh, Head of State/Government reaffirmed their commitment to realizing an ASEAN Community by 2015, in accordance with the ASEAN Political-Security Blueprint, to be free from the threats of drug abuse, use and illicit trafficking. Our Leaders declared to:

1. Intensify concerted efforts to realize the vision and goal of a drug free ASEAN Community by 2015 as a high priority agenda of ASEAN by tasking relevant Ministers to speed up the implementation of ASEAN Work Plan on Combating illicit drug production, trafficking and use 2009-2015 and the roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) on drug-free ASEAN by 2015.
2. Task relevant Ministers of ASEAN Sectoral bodies through the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) to make annual reports to the ASEAN Leaders on the progress of the implementation of the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint in the area of drug-free ASEAN.
3. Deepen our cooperation and coordination measures through the sharing of information and best practices in order to enhance more effective enforcement of illicit drug control in the region.
4. Further enhance cooperation and coordination in a comprehensive manner with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners and external parties to eradicate illicit drug production, processing, trafficking and use in the ASEAN region by 2015.

As guided by the ASEAN Leaders' recommendation, the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters reviewed and considered the Mid-term Review, and recommended regional strategic plans for the relevant Sectoral bodies. Their views have also been reported to the ASEAN Summit. This is also one of our efforts in finding ways and means to solve drug problem in our region at the Decision making level.

The final assessment in 2015 will determine the realization of ASEAN's ultimate goal of achieving "ASEAN Drug-Free 2015. By then we should have a clearer picture of what has been accomplished and the gaps in implementation of ASEAN Work Plan 2009-2015 would be identified. Our ASOD will be given the mandate to formulate an updated Work Plan beyond 2015 to continue our commitment in the fight against drugs.

Finally, Mr. President, I would like to conclude my intervention by assuring you of the support and cooperation of my delegation in the discharge of your responsibilities, wishing the 11th AIFOCOM meeting a success and by wishing you all good health, happiness and every success.

Thank You.